

East Elloe Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1953

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. MILLER, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

W. B. HITCHINGS, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

L. H. MOTLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food.

Clerk :

D. M. TAYLOR, Resigned 19th May, 1953.

Miss F. J. WHELPTON, Appointed 6th July, 1953

East Elloe Rural District Council


PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Councillor H. L. NEAVERSON.

Members :

Councillor J. G. BAKER
,, R. G. BARWELL.
,, F. BAXTER.
,, Rev. C. V. BROWNE-WILKINSON.
,, J. W. COOPER.
,, J. CUTHBERT.
,, H. W. FARROW, J.P.
,, T. FINES.
,, S. GARNER, J.P.
,, N. A. GRIMWOOD.
,, C. HESKETH.
,, C. HOPKINS
,, A. G. HOWLETT.
,, Mrs. A. H. S. HUNTER.
,, A. G. LENTON, J.P. (Deceased 30th
October, 1953)
,, T. H. LOGIN
,, J. MUNSON.
,, G. H. PARKER
,, C. I. PATCHETT.
,, H. PIGGINS.
,, T. H. ROSE.
,, C. ROWELL.
,, T. W. SELBY.
,, A. TUBBS
,, R. WESTON.
,, A. WHITE.



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East Elloe Rural District Council,
Mattimore House,
Holbeach.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1953

To the Chairman and Members of
The East Elloe Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the report for the year 1953.

I feel that it is necessary to emphasise the need for the provision of sewerage disposal works for Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. I am confident that the Council will get the support of all members, including those whose parishes will reap no immediate benefit, in pressing for the early commencement of this work.

I am, Madam, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RAYMOND MILLER,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is (acres) 84,597

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year
Home Population figure (used in the calcu-
lation of the birth and death rates) is ... 22,720

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1954 £73,155

Sum represented by 1d. rate £280 15s. 9d.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate books is
7,101 and the parish distribution is as follows :—

Parish	Total Houses	Est. Pop.	Area in Acres
Holbeach	2036	6514	22,666
Long Sutton	959	3068	3,931
Sutton Bridge	918	2937	6,164
Fleet	456	1459	6,837
Gedney	690	2208	11,679
Gedney Hill	140	448	1,867
Lutton	274	877	3,793
Sutton St. Edmund	184	589	4,670
Sutton St. James	218	697	2,707
Little Sutton	45	144	743
Tydd St. Mary	275	880	4,637
Whaplode	557	1782	} 10,688
Whaplode Drove	251	803	
Wingland	98	314	4,217
Totals	7101	22720	84,597

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	182	175	357
Illegitimate	7	7	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Live Births	189	182	371
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Adjusted Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated Mid-Year Home
Population 17.64

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Still Births	7	5	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births 31.33

Deaths

Male	Female	Total
123	100	223

Adjusted Death rate per 1,000 of estimated Mid-Year Home
Population 9.32

Maternal Mortality.

Deaths from pregnancy, child birth and abortion Nil
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) births Nil

Infantile Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	9	6	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death of infants under 4 weeks of age :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	6	4	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	40.43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...	36.41
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ...	142.86

Death Rates of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	26.95
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...	22.41
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ...	142.86

Deaths from :

	Male	Female	Total
Cancer ...	20	17	37
Measles ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—

Comments on Vital Statistics.

	E.E.R.D.C.	England & Wales
Birth Rate (Live births) ...	17.64	15.5
Death Rate (All causes) ...	9.32	11.4
Death Rate of infants under 1 year ...	40.43	26.8

A study of the Vital Statistics show that the health of the District remains reasonably good. Both the Birth and Death Rates compare favourably with those of the country as a whole. The Death Rate of Infants under 1 year continues to compare unfavourably with the mean Death Rate for England & Wales.

Regarding Infectious Disease, it is to be hoped that once immunisation against Whooping Cough has had time to be established, that this disease, like Diphtheria, will be conspicuous by its absence.

NUMBERS OF DEATHS FROM PARTICULAR CAUSES

IN EAST ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT IN 1952

Cause of Death				Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	4	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	4	2	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	3	3
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	12	5	17
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	—	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	6	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	13	9	22
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	13	9	22
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	3	1	4
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	16	24	40
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	2	2	4
Influenza	...	...	...	—	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	4	11
Bronchitis	...	...	...	6	6	12
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	5	—	5
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital malformation	...	...	...	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	22	9	31
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	—	2
All other accidents	...	...	...	5	3	8
Suicide	...	...	...	3	4	7
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals				123	100	223

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Excluding cases of Tuberculosis, which are dealt with separately, 946 cases of infections disease were notified during the year.

Infectious disease						No. of Cases.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	48
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	96
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	779
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	3
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	5
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						946

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease under Age Groups.

Disease	Age Group in years								Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Not known	
Scarlet Fever	—	1	7	37	1	—	2	—	48
Whooping Cough	10	17	21	44	2	—	2	—	96
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	22	109	127	460	33	11	12	5	779
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	—	1	—	1	5	—	8
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

COMMENTS :

Food Poisoning.

Four cases occurred during the year. All possible steps were taken to ascertain the source of infection.

Dysentery.

Sonnei Dysentery is endemic in this region and the fact that only three cases were notified during the year indicates the acquired active resistance which has been developed.

Diphtheria.

Again no cases of Diphtheria occurred in the district during the year. It is regrettable that this welcome state of affairs should encourage parents to neglect having their children immunised. A recent localised outbreak of Diphtheria in England resulted in several deaths.

In 1953, 278 children under 5 years of age and 7 children over 5 years of age received primary immunisation against Diphtheria.

A further 221 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years were given a " Booster " or secondary reinforcing immunisation course.

The percentage of children under 5 years of age immunised by the 31st December, 1953 was 56.3 and the percentage of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years immunised was 76.2.

Courses of immunisation are given by general practitioners in their surgeries and in the house, and by the Medical staff of the County Council in Infant Welfare Centres and in the Schools.

TUBERCULOSIS

			M.	F.	Tl.
Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/53.	Pulmonary	32	30	62	
		Non-Pulmonary	11	4	15
Cases removed from the Register during 1953.	Pulmonary	3	3	6	
		Non-Pulmonary	3	5	8
Cases added to the Register during 1953.	Pulmonary	2	4	6	
		Non-Pulmonary	1	1	2

The total number of cases on the Register at 31.12.53 was 77.

Eight cases were added to the Register during the year and 14 cases were removed. Of the 14 removals 1 was due to death which occurred in 1951, 10 were cured and 3 could not be traced.

Analysis of new cases and deaths during the year.

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	4	1	1	—	—	—	—

COMMENTS

This is the first year since 1935 (the commencement of records) that there have been no deaths from Tuberculosis.

Members of the Council have continued to be most helpful and sympathetic where the provision of suitable housing proved necessary.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The following arrangements have remained unaltered since 1950 :

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by Lincoln and Peterborough Public Health Laboratories. This district is officially included in the area served by the Lincoln Public Health Laboratory, and specimens for blood and bacteriological investigations are sent there. The shorter distance to Peterborough, however, makes it more convenient to send the more bulky specimens there, and water, milk and ice cream examinations are usually carried out there.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

An efficient and comprehensive service is maintained by the Transport Department of the County Council.

(c) Home Nursing.

A home nursing service is provided by the County Council.

(d) Home Helps.

A home help service is provided by the County Council. The public use this service mainly during illness or in the later months of pregnancy.

(e) Clinic and Treatment Services.

Infant Welfare Centres and Anti-natal clinics are provided by the County Council at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Ophthalmological examinations are provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic. Most of the children are referred to the Eye Specialist from School Medical Examinations or from Infant Welfare Clinics.

Speech Therapy is provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic. Here again most of the children are referred to the Speech Therapist from School Medical Examinations or from Infant Welfare Centres.

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are provided at all Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infants or children requiring treatment not listed above, are referred to the appropriate specialist, and the family practitioner is kept informed.

(f) Hospitals.

The Holbeach Hospital is a general practitioner's hospital, and the various specialists attend at certain times.

(g) National Assistance Act, 1948.

The Holland County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 (1) (a) have provided accommodation for aged and infirm persons at Stukeley Hall, Holbeach, Adderley House, Long Sutton and Seagate Hall, Long Sutton.

Temporary accommodation, as required by Section 21(1)(b), has been provided at the Holbeach Drove Hostel.

Six cases coming within the scope of Section 47 were dealt with during the year. No legal proceedings were necessary and they were all dealt with on a voluntary basis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Social Conditions.

Most of the adult male population is engaged in agricultural work. Potatoes, sugar beet, peas, fruit, flowers and bulbs provide seasonal employment for a large number of the adult female population.

Flour milling, canning of fruit and vegetables, agricultural implement manufacture and timber works all provide employment in the area.

WATER SUPPLY

Mr. H. Rippin, the Council's Water Engineer, has supplied the following statistical data and report :

Water in bulk is purchased by the Council under an agreement with the Spalding Urban District Council from their source at Bourne and delivered into an elevated tower at the Council's Booster Station at Weston. From the tower it is fed to the booster pumps situated in a building beneath the tower and pumped throughout the whole area. Two other elevated towers at Little Sutton and Whaplode Drove of 50,000 and 25,000 gallons capacity respectively serve as either feed or balancing tanks.

The total water purchased from the Spalding Urban District Council for the year ended 31st December, 1953, was 208,345,000 gallons.

Bulk supplies are afforded to the Wisbech and District Water Board from four points on the Council's mains, and amounted in total for the year under review to 12,573,000 gallons. The total quantity distributed in the Council's statutory area of supply was 195,772,000 gallons, giving a daily average for the period of 536,164 gallons.

Large quantities of water are distributed for agricultural and horticultural purposes, which are widely influenced by weather conditions causing extreme fluctuations in demand.

Distribution mains have been extended as circumstances and financial conditions permit, and mains water is available to over 98% of the rated hereditaments.

Considerable improvement in supplies was offered by bringing into service in September the new 12" diameter trunk main laid during the summer from Weston to Whaplode. This had the effect of halving the friction loss from Weston to Holbeach which had previously caused real concern resulting in very low pressures.

Also as part of the major capital scheme the reinforced concrete raft foundation was constructed ready to receive the 250,000 gallon storage tank, the erection of which was expected to commence in the spring of 1954. It was also expected that 1954 would see the erection of the new pumping station and installation of plant which would ensure adequate pumping facilities for the increasing demand for water.

22 samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. 14 of these samples were taken as check samples prior to bringing into service the new 12" trunk main constructed between Weston Tower and Whaplode. Frequent chlorination and flushing of the main was found to be necessary before satisfactory samples were obtained and the main brought into service.

The other 8 samples were in connection with routine examination of the mains supply and all gave the following results.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey, 2 days,
37°C—Nil per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli—Nil per 100 ml.

Remarks.—Class 1 (Highly Satisfactory).

Eight samples of casual water supplies, i.e. wells or cisterns were taken during the year. In all but one case these samples were found to be unsatisfactory and arrangements were made, where possible, for connection to the main's supply. Where no mains supply was available, householders, were advised to take precautions and boil all drinking water.

A chemical analysis of a sample of mains water taken from a tap at the Council Offices, Holbeach on 10/3/53 gave the following results :

Chemical results in parts per million.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright and clear
Nature of deposit	...	Slight trace of vegetable fibres			
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction	...	...	...	...	Practically neutral
ph value	...	...	...	...	7.25
Taste	...	...	...	...	Satisfactory
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.03
Albuminoid nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.02
Nitrate nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrite nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.004
Chlorine as chlorides	...	...	...	...	22.0

Opinion.—This water is of very good organic quality and the analysis shows no sign of pollution. The water is bright and clear, of satisfactory odour and taste, and, in our opinion, quite suitable for drinking and general purposes.

The following table indicates for each parish the number of dwelling houses and the approximate population supplied from public water mains, either direct to the house (including houses where the supply is by means of a stand tap placed in the curtilage of the house) or by means of stand pipes fitted to the main and supplying several houses. It also indicates where mains water is available but is not taken and where mains water is not available.

Parish	MEANS OF SUPPLY.				NOT SUPPLIED			
	Direct to Houses.		Standpipes		Water Available		No Water Available	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
Holbeach	1936	6194	6	19	73	234	21*	67
Long Sutton	878	2809	2	6	73	234	6	19
Sutton Bridge	896	2867	1	3	20	64	1	3
Fleet	414	1325	2	6	35	112	5	16
Gedney	645	2064	8	26	20	64	17	54
Gedney Hill	125	400	3	10	7	22	5	16
Lutton	263	841	3	10	6	19	2	7
Sutton St. Edmund .	172	550	—	—	11	35	1	4
Sutton St. James	208	666	1	3	2	6	7	22
Little Sutton	43	138	1	3	—	—	1	3
Tydd St. Mary	246	787	3	10	9	29	17*	54
Whaplode	482	1542	7	22	40	128	28*	90
Whaplode Drove	231	739	—	—	18	58	2*	6
Wingland	79	253	—	—	—	—	19*	61
Totals	6618	21175	37	118	314	1005	132	422

* In parishes marked thus 49 properties receive a mains water supply from neighbouring Authorities.

The following sections of the Report have been compiled by the Chief and the additional Sanitary Inspector.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Detailed schemes for the provision of main sewerage in the townships of Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge were submitted to the Ministry of Health in 1948. Approval is still awaited.

The Council is fully aware of the necessity of such schemes and of the gross pollution which is being caused in the dykes around these towns by the present arrangements.

Frequently, owners of shops, etc., in the business sections of these towns are restricted in the proper development of their properties by the lack of suitable drainage disposal facilities.

Main Sewerage and sewage disposal plants are provided at practically all the post-war Council Housing Estates. Seventeen plants are now in operation and serve a total of 496 houses. The maintenance of these disposal plants and two serving premises belonging to the County Council is the responsibility of the Health Department.

During the past few years there has been a large increase in the number of premises provided with W.C.'s, baths, etc., connected to private disposal systems. In the past this work has been mainly carried out by owner-occupiers to their own property. However now, in an effort to attract suitable agricultural workers to more isolated properties, owners of such dwellings are carrying out similar improvements and a large number of such cottages have been modernised.

During the year new drainage systems at 89 privately owned premises were inspected and tested. In addition all drainage and sewerage work on Council Sites in course of construction have been inspected and tested by the Health Department.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Satisfactory public conveniences for men and women are provided at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Very large numbers of visitors come to the district during "Tulip Time." Temporary sanitary accommodation is provided along the route. These facilities are also loaned, free of charge, to the organisers of fetes, athletic meetings, etc.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Health Department is responsible for the collection of domestic and trade refuse, salvage, the emptying of sanitary pails, privy-vaults and cesspools, and the disposal of the waste materials. Brief notes follow on the various sections of the Cleansing Service.

(a) **Refuse Collection and Disposal.** — A weekly kerbside refuse collection is given to premises in the urban parts of Holbeach, Fleet, Gedney, Long Sutton, Sutton Bridge, Lutton, Gedney Dyke, Holbeach Hurn and Whaplode, and to those properties lying on the roads between these villages. New housing estates at Gedney Dyke and Long Sutton together with extensions of existing housing estates have increased collections considerably in the Urban Areas.

A similar fortnightly refuse collection service covers practically all the remaining parts of the district with the exception of Wingland. Here, the service is given at four-weekly intervals owing to the sparsely populated nature of the district and the wide separation between properties.

One modern side-loading vehicle and a modern rear-loading moving-floor vehicle are used for refuse collection work.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping in pits or on low-lying land. One site only has been in use during the major portion of the year. This was situated at Gedney Church End and was completed towards the end of the year and has now been earthed over and is under cultivation. In addition, a small pit near a farm at Gedney Church End and a small pit at Tydd St. Mary have been filled in.

Tipping is now taking place at a site at Fleet where an area of low-lying land is being filled and raised to the level of the adjoining land.

No difficulty is experienced in obtaining sites for refuse disposal purposes and sufficient sites have now been earmarked to allow for disposal of refuse for several years. A site which was reclaimed in 1950 is now in use by a nationally known flower and bulb firm as an exhibition ground for flowers and shrubs.

(b) **Salvage Collection and Disposal.**—Salvage is collected at the same time as the refuse in both urban and rural areas. A trailer is attached to each refuse vehicle for this purpose. In addition, special collections are made when the quantities and types of material make it necessary.

Details are given below of the weights and values of the salvage sold during 1953.

Material.	Tons cwts. qrs.			£	s.	d.
Mixed waste paper & cardboard	197	13	0	1206	13	10
Textiles	3	5	2	121	19	9
Ferrous Metals	25	15	0	85	8	0
Non-ferrous Metals		17	1	54	3	4
Sundries				18	19	9
	227	10	3	£1487	4	8

This is equivalent to the product of a fivepenny rate.

The following table shows the values of salvage sold since 1940, when the present scheme began :—

During 1940 sales were made to the value of £338								
„	1941	„	„	„	„	„	„	£625
„	1942	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1348
„	1943	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1125
„	1944	„	„	„	„	„	„	£852
„	1945	„	„	„	„	„	„	£686
„	1946	„	„	„	„	„	„	£634
„	1947	„	„	„	„	„	„	£805
„	1948	„	„	„	„	„	„	£986
„	1949	„	„	„	„	„	„	£766
„	1950	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1089
„	1951	„	„	„	„	„	„	£2883
„	1952	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1752
„	1953	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1487
Total Sales :								£15376

(c) **Sanitary Pail Collection and Disposal.**—A weekly evening collection is made from about 900 premises in the urban parts of Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. A cesspool emptier, fitted with a special hopper tank, is used.

Disposal is effected by composting with straw. By the end of the year the only site in use was that at Fen Road, Holbeach. Use of the site at Fleet Church End was discontinued owing to complaints of smell from a nearby farm.

(d) **Cesspool and Vault Emptying.**—This is carried out with modern suction type cesspool emptiers. Two of these are of 1100 gallons capacity whilst the third, which is also used for night soil collection, is of 750 gallons capacity. Privy-vaults are emptied free of charge whilst cesspools are emptied free of charge provided that the period between emptying is not less than 12 months. If service is required at shorter intervals a charge is made which is based on the time taken for the work and the time between the emptyings.

6001 vaults and cesspools were emptied during the year. The demand, so far as cesspool emptying is concerned, is still increasing but that for vault emptying would appear to have reached its peak. The following figures for the years 1946 to 1953 clearly illustrate the position.

Year	Vaults	Cesspools	Total
1946	1209	1082	2291
1947	1431	1330	2761
1948	1798	1752	3550
1949	1857	2164	4021
1950	2156	2490	4646
1951	2208	2916	5124
1952	2147	3067	5214
1953	2199	3802	6001

Disposal of vault and cesspool contents is carried out in a variety of ways.

Long, narrow trenches have been excavated at sites at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge. Sewage is discharged into these and soaks away into the ground. The method works well but sludge removal from the trenches is rather a problem. In an effort to reduce this work cesspool contents are first discharged into straw composting tanks and the resulting effluent directed to the irrigation trenches.

When possible, sewage disposal is effected on agricultural land. Large amounts are dealt with in this way but it can only be carried out at certain times of the year. Farmers generally welcome this use of their land and there appears to be little or no nuisance.

The cesspool emptiers are also used for the desludging of sewage disposal plants at post-war Council estates, institutions, factories, etc.

(e) **General.**—The year has been one of progress. There has been a steady increase in the domestic refuse collection service owing to new housing developments and extensions of the service areas. It is felt that attention will need to be given to the variety and character of refuse receptacles now in use. These vary from standard B.S.S. Bins through oil drums to tea chests and similar unsuitable containers.

Salvage collections have increased in weight but, owing to a reduction in price, not in value. The quantities collected of paper and cardboard are showing a steady increase and the present salvage scheme is as essential for satisfactory disposal as it is for the revenue produced thereby.

Little change has taken place so far as sanitary pail collection is concerned. This is the most unpleasant duty the Cleansing Service has to perform. It causes nuisance to the person from whom the collection is made, to the passerby and to those responsible for collection and disposal.

Progress is being made in the establishment of a satisfactory and economical method of composting for the disposal of sanitary pail, cesspool and vault contents.

A total of 19 men are employed in connection with the Refuse and Salvage Scheme, Rodent Destruction and Maintenance of Council Estate sewage disposal plants. All the outside workers are provided with two pairs of boiler suits a year, rubber boots, waterproof three-quarter length coats and waterproof leggings.

HOUSING

Progress continues in the development of Council Housing Estates. The position at 21st May, 1954 is shown below.

(a) Permanent Houses.

Houses erected under all schemes prior to 1945	...	869
Houses completed since 1945	... ..	562
Houses under erection	... ..	84
Further houses proposed to be erected	... ..	228

(b) Temporary Bungalows.

Erected at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge	... ..	69
Ex-R.A.F. Hutments converted at Sutton Bridge		42

During 1953 the following dwellings were completed :

By the Council	... ..	46
By private enterprise	... ..	25

Applications for Council Houses.—A “points” scheme is used in the selection of tenants for Council Houses and this is based on a number of factors such as condition of applicant’s house; size, age and sex of family; illness; service in H.M.’s Forces; period on waiting list and so on. At the present time there are 990 applications on the list.

The Health Department is asked on occasions to report on the conditions of applicants and due regard is paid to such reports which are attached to the Housing Application Form. Particular attention is paid to those where cases of tuberculosis are involved. As a matter of policy reports on housing applications, save in exceptional cases, are only made when a request has been made by a member of the Council.

General.—Many of the dwellings in the area are in need of repair and attention. Post-war repair charges and pre-war rents, in addition to giving the good owner a problem and the bad owner an excuse for the non-carrying out of repairs, make strict application of the provisions of the Housing Act 1936 an impossible task.

Regular systematic inspections of dwellings are not carried out and inspections are normally only made when complaint is made of unsatisfactory housing conditions.

There is little doubt that the number of complaints would be greater but for the fact that tenants appreciate the much lower rent attaching to the older cottage as opposed to the post-war Council house.

Reference has already been made to the number of dwellings that are being modernised by the owners. Only in this way can the better type worker be retained in the more rural parts.

Mention has also been made of the sanitary pail type of privy which is still in use in many parts of the area. Emptying and disposal of pail contents is a problem particularly in those areas where a collection is not provided. It is pleasing to note that the Council has agreed to prepare a programme for the conversion of pail closets to water closets at all Council houses where no pail collection service is provided.

Since the end of the War a number of ex-R.A.F. Hutments have been converted for use as temporary dwellings at Sutton Bridge. The condition of these dwellings cannot be regarded as satisfactory and it is hoped that it will be possible to give consideration to the rehousing of the tenants and the demolition of the buildings in the not too distant future.

Moveable Dwellings.—Little trouble is experienced with caravans. Those in use are generally of a very modern and satisfactory type. They are well kept with satisfactory amenities.

Licences issued in respect of moveable dwellings	...	32
Licences issued in respect of sites	... ..	5

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Owing to lack of staff regular and systematic inspection of food premises is not carried out. Inspections are made when possible to those premises where it is felt attention is most needed. Generally however food premises are kept in a satisfactory way.

The Council is a participant in the County of Holland Clean Food Campaign. The object of the campaign was to encourage the voluntary attainment by food traders of a satisfactory standard of hygiene in which cases Clean Food Certificates would be issued to them. It was hoped that when the public realise the value and significance of these certificates a good voluntary standard of hygiene would be obtained from all food traders. Generally there has been very little public interest in the campaign. However it must not be assumed from this that food traders standards are low. This is not so and the great majority achieve a satisfactory standard of hygiene.

Clean Food Certificates have been issued in respect of the following premises.

Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	...	10
Grocery stores	...	...	...	...	11
Fried and Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	4
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream Factory	...	...	...	...	1
Bakery .	...	...	...	...	1
Cooked Meat etc., factory	...	...	...	...	1

The parish distribution is as follows :—

Holbeach	...	...	...	...	...	17
Long Sutton	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sutton Bridge	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gedney	...	...	...	...	...	3
Whaplode	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fleet	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gedney Hill	...	...	...	...	...	1

(a) Milk.

1. Milk Distributors.

No. of Milk distributors registered with the Council ...	12
No. of premises registered as Dairies	5

2. Designated Milk.

Practically all the milk sold in the district is pasteurised. Small quantities of sterilised milk are also on sale. All the treatment establishments are outside the district.

The following licences to use the special milk designations were issued during 1953. Licences are issued annually expiring 31st December.

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	6
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	...	1
T.T. Tested	...	...	...	...	...	1

3. Sampling.

(a) Designated Milk.

19 samples of bottled designated milk were taken during the year. The results were as follows :—

The 3 samples of sterilised milk conformed to the standard required.

2 of the 3 samples of pasteurised tuberculin tested milk conformed to the standard.

12 of the 13 samples of pasteurised milk conformed to the standard.

The licencing authorities for the areas in which the two unsatisfactory samples were produced were notified of the results of the examinations.

A report was made on the position now obtaining in the control of milk supplies following the transfer of certain functions to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. At the present time it would appear that the inspection of all dairy farms throughout the Isle of Ely and County of Holland is carried out by an officer stationed at March.

(b) Ice Cream.

Details of Register on 31st December, 1953.

Licences for Manufacture and Sale .	...	...	...	1
Licences for Sale only	...	...	...	56

There is only one manufacturer of ice cream in the district. The premises and methods are satisfactory and comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. Practically all the ice-cream sold in the area is wrapped at the place of manufacture. Eight samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for examination.

Type of Sample		Where Produced		Methylene Blue			
Loose	Wrapped	E.E.R.D.	Outside Area	Provisional Grade			
				1	2	3	4
2	6	2	6	1	7	—	—

(c) Meat Inspection.

Slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption is not carried out in the district. Large numbers of cottagers pigs are killed in the district but these are not normally inspected. Inspection was carried out in those cases where part of such animals was to be sold to the Ministry and in the case of animals slaughtered for emergency reasons.

Notification was received that a beast from this district was found to be affected with cysticercus bovis. An investigation was made to ascertain cause of infection but without results. Amongst the difficulties of these investigations are the changes of ownership and difficulty of identifying a particular animal. Sewage is often disposed of on grassland and efforts are always made to find whether the grassland where the beast had been was so treated. Up to now however no such connection has been found.

(d) Food Inspection.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed. Details are given below :—

740 tins of various Canned Goods.

62 jars of Preserves, Pickles, etc.

26½ lbs. of Cheese Trimmings.

15 drums of Processed Cheese.

1 drum of Custard Powder.

16 packets of Cereal, Milk Compound, etc.

672 lbs. of Headless Cod and Haddock Fillets.

275¼ lbs. of Beef (Bone taint).

1 Beasts Head.

RODENT CONTROL

The Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have approved the scheme which consequently ranks for grant.

A part-time rodent operator is employed. No major infestations were found during the year and all treatments were for minor infestations.

The following table shows the amount of work done for the fifteen months ended 31st March, 1954.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Private Dwellings	Agricul- tural Property	All Other including Business Properties	Totals
Total Number of Properties in District	45	6789	1867	1074	9775
Number of Properties inspected by the L o c a l Authority	(a) 4	40	6	32	82
during 1952 as a result of (a) Notifi- cation, (b) Survey,	(b) 84	517	34	55	690
or (c) otherwise ...	(c) 6	60	—	—	66
Number of Properties inspected which were found to be infested with rats	Maj. — Min. 34	— 16	— 6	— 27	— 83
Number of Properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice ...	—	11	—	—	11
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority .	34	27	6	27	94

INSECT CONTROL

Disinfestation against insect pests is carried out whenever a request is made. A charge is made for such work. D.D.T. preparations are in general use in all control work.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Twenty-one inspections were made during the year of factory premises in the district. Four written notices were served in respect of insufficient or unsuitable sanitary accommodation. There were no prosecutions.

MISCELLANEOUS

One of the most serious happenings of the year 1953 was the extensive flooding which occurred on the East Coast on the night of the 31st January.

At Sutton Bridge, a combination of high tide and high wind, caused the River Nene to overflow its banks. Over 80 houses were flooded to a depth of several feet. Within a short time of the flooding supplies of disinfectant, etc., were delivered at the local police station for issue to effected householders. Cesspool emptiers were in use early the following day removing water from under the floors of houses, emptying rain water cisterns, cesspools and so on. The immediate task of the householders then was the removal of the slime and filth brought into the houses by the rising waters. Then came the efforts to dry and salvage furniture and household furnishings.

Offers of assistance were made to other areas which had been even worse affected. A cesspool emptier and driver were loaned to the Downham Rural District in Norfolk and did invaluable work in the Watlington and St. Germans areas. A hot air disinfecter, acquired in 1947, was converted and loaned to the King's Lynn Borough Council to help in the drying out of houses. It was later used in this area for the same purpose.

An Emergency Committee of the Council was set up to administer the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of distress. The sanitary inspectors carried out the necessary inspections and assessed the degree of damage to furniture, clothing, carpets, etc. Grants were made on the basis of their reports.

Flooding of land owing to the bursting of the sea bank, also occurred in the Gedney Marsh area.

An unusual nuisance occurred owing to the siting of a pea haulm stack near to a dyke. Complaint was made of smell from a dyke. On investigation this was found to be due to liquid from a pea haulm stack draining into a dyke. The result was dyke pollution for a distance of over a mile and destruction of all the fish life. Pea haulm is one of the most offensive smelling materials found in the countryside today but this was the first time that an incident of this type had been discovered. Once the matter was pointed out the farmer concerned did all he could to remedy the nuisance. A letter was later sent to the local Secre-

tary of the National Farmers Union drawing attention to the nuisances that could arise from pea haulm and asking if they would help by giving publicity to the matter. The County Executive Committee was most helpful and agreed to the letter being inserted in their monthly journal so that the matter could be brought to the attention of all their members.

Yet another nuisance occurred owing to the keeping of large numbers of ducks in close proximity to a dwelling-house. The ducks were kept in a satisfactory and modern way but, owing to their numbers and proximity to a house, smell nuisance did arise from time to time. In this case the person concerned agreed to remove the ducks from the immediate vicinity of the house.

